

Testimony of

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Retired Educator

Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I support HB 6884 in its entirety. I would like to reinforce the need for the Educator's Bill of Rights. In the current political environment, it is particularly important that teachers are allowed freedom of speech. In general, I support the need for age appropriate materials. It also should be recognized that teachers know their students and are able to determine their students' intellectual maturity. Teachers are professional and their professional judgment should be respected. We live in a democratic republic and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides for free speech. The move to limit speech regarding LGBT+ topics or African American topics is unfair to transgender students and African American students respectively is undemocratic and, in my view, unconstitutional. Please support the Educator Bill of Rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

